

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

To detect overlapping flat mailpieces in a transport path that are transported vertically in succession at least two transport stages are successively arranged. Each transport stage has a nominal speed, wherein the nominal speed of a following transport stage in a transport direction is higher than the nominal speed of the preceding transport stage. A speed of the transported mailpieces is measured by scanning the items in front of a following transport stage for a maximum distance that is shorter than a shortest agreed mailpiece length by means of two sensors. Measured results are evaluated if a sensor measures a speed that deviates only slightly by a defined small value from the nominal speed of the following transport stage. An overlap is detected if simultaneously measured speeds of the two sensors are different and a smaller measured speed deviates from a greater speed by a defined value.